

MINUTES

MEETING OF: CITY OF CARLSBAD ARTS COMMISSION
DATE OF MEETING: Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014
PLACE OF MEETING: City of Carlsbad Council Chamber
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad CA

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Tina Schmidt called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Alter, DeForest, Johnson, Markovits, Schmidt, Voll and White
Absent: None
Staff Present: Vincent Kitch, Cultural Arts Manager; Chris Hazeltine, Parks & Recreation Director;
Mick Calarco, Special Projects Manager
Presenters: Gail Goldman, Public Art Consultant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

By proper motion (DeForest/Johnson) and vote the minutes of the Oct. 29, 2014 rescheduled meeting of the City of Carlsbad Arts Commission were approved with two abstentions.

PRESENTATIONS

Chris Hazeltine and Mick Calarco gave a presentation on the Parks Master Plan which includes changes/upgrades to Aviara Community Park, Poinsettia Community Park and Pine Avenue Community Park. The presentation included community survey results and how the planners have focused on the requests of Carlsbad residents. Some items of interest to the Arts Commission and cultural arts includes the creation of an amphitheater in Aviara Community Park, flexible community Centers in all three parks which could include cultural arts programing, rooftop usable space on the recreation center in Poinsettia Community Park where residents could gather, use as a sport court or enjoy the TGIF concerts, and a botanical and community garden in Pine Avenue Park. The next step will be a presentation to city council. They will ask City Council to approve the updates and to launch the feasibility studies.

Commissioner Markovits asked about parking and recommended underground parking at Poinsettia Park. She also asked about including culinary arts into the plans for any of the new buildings. Director Hazeltine stated that parking will be addressed during the feasibility study. Culinary arts were listed as one of the items that the public was interested in seeing. No specific plans have been made for specific building interior designs but these type of things will be addressed in the future as plans progress. Hazeltine reported that a teaching kitchen would be ideal.

Commissioner DeForest asked about the percentage of the budget which would be set aside for public art. Director Hazeltine confirmed that 1 percent of the budget would be set aside for public art as per the city's policy.

Commissioner Alter asked about ways to compel teens away from electronics and expressed interest in involving Wifi and interactive activities for teens. Director Hazeltine responded that the interests of teens is fluid and ever changing so they want to be able to set up areas which are flexible to meet the ever-changing interests of teens.

Commissioner Johnson asked about concession sales at Poinsettia. Director Hazeltine reported that the exact designs and plans will be further addressed during feasibility studies. Future plans will most likely include some public/private partnerships which will include revenue generating options.

Commissioner Schmidt is concerned about potential problems with homelessness and utilizing the botanical garden at Pine Avenue Park as a hiding place. Director Hazeltine reported the plans include low-lying, low growing landscaping to prevent hiding spots. The police department will also work closely with Parks & Recreation during the design phase to point out potential problem areas and make recommendations about alternatives. He also mentioned that seating areas may include whimsical public art incorporated into the outdoor seating.

Commissioner Schmidt asked about gathering places at Poinsettia, especially around the new building.

Mick Calarco mentioned that the area immediately behind the building would be a plaza/gathering area. She then asked about amphitheaters for other areas. Calarco answer that there is an amphitheater planned for Leo Carrillo Park.

Commissioner Schmidt asked about the budget. Director Hazeltine clarified that the funds for all of these projects is from developer impact fees and is already set aside.

Commissioner White asked about turf and possible carcinogens in synthetic turf. Director Hazeltine discussed areas and uses for synthetic turf vs. natural grass along with the safety of synthetic turf used by the city.

Gail Goldman, Public Art Consultant, presented to the commission about the Public Art Master Plan. She showed an extensive survey of samples of public art throughout the country. As part of the Public Art Master Plan she will speak with as many people in Carlsbad as possible and create a menu of potential sites for public art. She then surveyed the arts commissioners for their opinions in relation to public art.

Commissioner White would like to celebrate the name Carlsbad in relation to our sister city Karlovy Vary and somehow tie it into the overall plan, would like to see a theme or integrated approach and focus on what makes the City of Carlsbad a special location with work, beaches, Legoland and everything we need right here. He would also like to see walking paths with art.

Commission Alter discussed notable things about the City of Carlsbad to include high tech, natural beauty, good planning and development in the city, responsive and responsible government, flower fields, beach, the village, La Costa Spa. He mentioned that the role of public art in the city should serve as a gathering place and landmark to draw people to the community and a destination of tourists and residents and an example to other cities.

Commissioner Markovits sees the City of Carlsbad as a collection of disjointed communities that do not flow into each other well. She would like to see something that ties the north to the south, possibly a sculpture similar to the roundabout art to act as a portal to the city on the south side. Much of our public art is out of the way and not accessible to most people, such as the art on or near public buildings like the fire stations. The plan for the city needs to be unified and in a more public area such as the main streets so that the public can enjoy the art on a daily basis.

Commissioner DeForest pointed out the walking trails throughout the City of Carlsbad and encouraged that we think about those when planning for public art.

Commissioner Voll pointed out the location as midway between Orange County and San Diego.

Commissioner Schmidt wants to highlight the city's association with the water including ocean, lagoons and lakes and the hiking trails around each of those. The City of Carlsbad's year-round outdoor spaces are the most important and most unique aspects of the city. She would like to see public art as a gathering place incorporating seating of at least 25-50 people. She would also like to see benches and art along our sidewalks.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Community Arts Grants- Commissioners Voll and White excused themselves due to potential conflict of interest.

The funding plan was presented by Manager Kitch. A total of \$43,300 was awarded to fourteen organizations. There is \$6,700 leftover for grantees that turn in applications throughout the year for other projects. The remaining five Arts Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the community arts grants as presented (DeForest/Alter).

Public Art Donation Proposal-

Manager Kitch presented the public art donation proposal from Westfield Horton Plaza of a major artwork by Loren Madsen. After extensive discussion the Arts Commission voted 5-2 against accepting the donation (White/Johnson).

CHAIR'S REPORT

None

MANAGER'S REPORT

Cultural Arts Manager Kitch reported that over 300 people turned out to meet and interact at the Gustafer Yellowgold event for Family Open Studios Plus. Foreign Film Fridays are drawing 150 to over capacity crowds at each event.

He also announced the appointment of a new deputy library director, Diane Bednarski who will begin her work on Monday, Dec. 1

Kitch has met with the finance department to go over CIP budget and public art allocations.

FRIENDS OF THE ARTS REPORT

Commissioner Johnson as president of the Carlsbad Friends of the Arts sent a letter to the City Council and city manager about concerns related to the library capital improvement projects and relocation of the Cultural Arts Office. She received a response from the library director and will report back on that information next meeting.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commission Markovits represents the Arts Commission on the finishes and furnishing committee. The first element they discussed was carpeting. They decided on a subdued color and pattern on the carpet. They agreed on a pastel inspired palette with rectangular shaped carpet tiles for Cole Library. The committee was unable to come to a decision for the Dove library. The architectural firm, G4, will bring more samples to the next meeting and they will also decide on paint colors.

Commissioner Alter reminded everyone that on Dec. 18 Jefferson Elementary will have their performance sponsored by a community arts grant from the city.

Commissioner DeForest discussed his recent visit to the Valley of Fire petroglyphs to view prehistoric art.

Commission Voll went to Westfield Horton Plaza to view the Loren Madsen artwork.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Schmidt adjourned the meeting of the Arts Commission at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Riggins

Sr. Office Specialist